1st November 1957] [Sri C. Subramaniam]

Of course, if it is a mere omission of one word, it is all right. But the paper itself says that the Minister said something more. That is :

"Mr. Bhaktavatsalam stated that whatever certain newspapers may have published, he had never said that Mr. U. Muthuramalinga Thevar should be destroyed as Sisupala had been destroyed by Lord Krishna. 'Such words', said the Minister, 'can never come out of my mouth'."

When these also were omitted in the earlier report, how could it be a mere omission of the word 'never'? Probably to get over the mistake committed, it is stated that only the omission of the word 'never' has changed the context. Whatever it is, regret has been expressed and I do not think we need take notice of it now. But I wish to point out that it is not merely the omission of one word.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members have brought to my notice in the last two or three months several instances of incorrect reporting of the proceedings in newspapers. I need not mention the names of those hon. Members who have brought these things to my notice. All the while, I was thinking that the best solution would be to call the persons connected with the concerned papers and to settle the matter. But I find that this leniency on my part has been taken advantage of. Hereafter, I shall not do anything as I thought I would and if anything like the present case recurs, I shall place the matter before the House. In the case before us, however, I shall see what could be done.

V.—CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE UNDER RULE 40 (1) OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES *RE* SUSPENSION OF COLLECTION OF LOAN INSTALMENTS FROM AGRICULTURISTS IN CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT TILL MARCH 1958.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. the Leader of the Opposition has given notice of a motion under rule 40 (1) of the Assembly Rules calling the attention of the Hon. Minister for Revenue to a matter of urgent public importance. The hon. Leader of the Opposition may move his motion.

* SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Revenue to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, immediate suspension of collection of all loans granted to agriculturists in Chingleput district till March 1958.

Sir, so far as the Chingleput district is concerned, especially the southern parts of it are concerned, there has been complete failure of monsoon. Almost all the tanks are dry and till this morning the district has had no rains and there is no supply of water. The same is the case with regard to border areas like Tindivanam taluk, North Arcot district and Salem district and other places.

[Sri V. K. Ramaswami Mudaliyar] [1st November 1957

At this juncture I find that there has been complete harassment regarding the collection of loan instalments in respect of all loans granted to the agriculturists, such as takkavi loans, loans granted for the purchase of manure, bullocks and others. Even if the tanks were full, my submission is that this is not the opportune time to collect the loan instalments. This is the time when ryots need money either from the Government or from other money-lenders to raise their crops. I have personally seen during the course of my tours in these areas, Tahsildars going about and persecuting people regarding collection. I represented to the Collector of the district but he said that until orders of Government are received the collection cannot be deferred. Government were good enough to postpone collections on two previous occasions. For this I am thankful to the Hon. Minister for Revenue. My submission now is, I have no objection to the loan instalments being collected immediately after the harvest is over. I would, therefore, request the Hon. Minister for Revenue to send telegraphic instructions to Collectors concerned to stop all these collections till the harvest season.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Chingleput district the total amount of loan instalments to be collected for this year is 47·3 lakhs. Out of this a sum of Rs. 22·7 lakhs has been collected up to 18th October 1957 leaving a balance of 24·6 lakhs. The Government have recently instructed Collectors of all districts to speed up the work of collecting all collectable loans instalments.. As a result of this, several representations, not only from the Chingleput district, but also from other districts were received asking for the postponement of collection of loan instalments. These representations were examined but the request for postponement could not be complied with for the following reasons : (1) There were no adverse seasonal conditions in these districts. On the other hand the season was satisfactory last year and the ryots were able to get a satisfactory return from their crops. The season has been favourable mostly this year also. (2) The ways and means position of the Government demanded that all outstandings from loans should be speedily collected.

According to the instructions issued in the matter of collection of loan instalments postponed prior to 8th June 1956 due to adverse seasonal conditions, only one instalment will be collected in this fasli, namely, 1357. The Government have also ordered that in respect of intensive manuring scheme loans, 50 per cent of the total dues recoverable in fasli 1356 in Chingleput district should alone be collected during that fasli and that the remaining 50 per cent to be recovered in fasli 1357. If however any ryot has to pay heavy arrears at a time, it should be only due to his fault in not having paid the instalments in time as and when they fell

due and having allowed them to accumulate. Any concession shown in such cases will only tend to encourage more and more default in payment of loan instalments. Moreover, unless these amounts are recovered promptly, it will not be possible for the Government to help other poor ryots who are in need of credit to carry on current agricultural operations.

The season in Chingleput district has not been adverse for the past two years. The north-east monsoon of this year has set in and the prospect seems to be bright. The Government, therefore, see no justification to suspend the collection of loan instalments till March 1958 in Chingleput district.

VI.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS BHOODAN YAGNA BILL, 1957.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras Bhoodan Yagna Bill[a], 1957.

This Bill is to facilitate the donation of lands for the Bhoodan Yagna in this State and the transfer and settlement of such lands.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is—

" That leave be granted for the introduction of the Madras Bhoodan Yagna Bill, 1957."

The motion was put and carried.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The Bill is introduced. We are not going to discuss it now. It will be discussed later.

(2) THE MOTOR VEHICLES (MADRAS AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform hon. Members in this connection that under Rule 140 of the Assembly Rules I have received notice of a resolution to be moved by Sri N. K. Palanisami, namely, ' that this House disapproves Madras Ordinance II of 1957 [The Motor Vehicles (Madras Amendment) Ordinance, 1957]. When a resolution of this type and the Bill to repeal the Ordinance are both before the House, it is customary to give precedence to the Bill and after the Bill is passed, the fate of the resolution may be decided. I, therefore, give precedence to the Bill and permit the Hon. Minister to move the Motor Vehicles (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1957.

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[a] Publishd in the *Fort St. George Gazette* Extrodinary, dated 4th November 1957.